

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 SSC-01 /024 W
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FM AMEMBASSY MADRID
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4501

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 MADRID 04977

FOR EUR/WE - HUGHES

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, SP
SUBJECT: ALEJANDRO ROJAS MARCOS DE LA VIESCA

1. THE FOLLOWING MATERIAL WAS PREPARED BY AMCONSUL SEVILLE
IN RESPONSE TO DEPT REQUEST.

2. ROJAS MARCOS WAS BORN [Sensitive Information Removed Per NARA 09 DEC 2014] OF WEALTHY
SEVILLE INDUSTRIALIST ALEJANDRO ROJAS-MARCOS DIEZ DE LA
CORTINA FROM SEVILLE, AND PILAR DE LA FIESCA CAMPO FROM
SANTANDER. HE HAS TWO SISTERS AND A BROTHER LUIS WHO
IS A PRACTICING PSYCHIATRIST IN NEW YORK CITY WHOM ROJAS
MARCOS VISITS FROM TIME TO TIME. HE IS MARRIED, HAS THREE
CHILDREN.

3. ROJAS MARCOS FINISHED HIS PRIMARY AND SECONDARY
EDUCATION WITH THE JESUIT SCHOOL IN SEVILLE, AND OBTAINED
HIS LAW DEGREE FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF SEVILLE WHERE HE WAS
ACTIVE IN STUDENT POLITICS. HIS FIRST ARREST WAS IN 1961
IN OVIEDO. AFTER THAT TIME HE WAS OFTEN IN TROUBLE WITH
THE FRANCO REGIME FOR PUBLIC SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS AND
LECTURES HE GAVE ON CIVIL RIGHTS IN WHICH HE WAS HIGHLY
CRITICAL OF THE REGIME. HE WAS ARRESTED SEVERAL TIMES,
INCLUDING WHILE A CITY COUNCIL MEMBER. PRIOR TO FRANCO'S
DEATH HE HAD BEEN BANNED FROM THE PROVINCE FOR SEVERAL
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YEARS, ALTHOUGH PLACED ON PROVISIONAL LIBERTY.

4. ROJAS MARCOS DISTINGUISHED HIMSELF BY RUNNING FOR THE
CITY COUNCIL AT THE AGE OF 27 AND GETTING HIMSELF ELECTED
TO THAT GROUP OF ONE-THIRD OF THE MEMBERS WHO UNDER THE
ELECTORAL SYSTEM THEN IN EFFECT WERE ELECTED BY POPULAR
VOTE (THE OTHER TWO-THIRDS BEING SELECTED AS ORGAN OR

PROFESSIONAL REPRESENTATIVES). HE CAMPAIGNED AMERICAN STYLE, VISITING SMALL NEIGHBORHOOD BARS AND DISCUSSING HIS CANDIDACY AMONG THE RANK AND FILE. HIS SUBSEQUENT ELECTION TO THE COUNCIL CAUSED NO SMALL RIPPLE AMONG THE POLITICAL ESTABLISHMENT OF THE TIME. AFTER ONE YEAR ON THE COUNCIL HE RESIGNED "FOR POLITICAL REASONS," WHICH MEANT CONTINUED CONFRONTATIONS WITH AND HARRASSMENT BY THE FRANCO REGIME ULTIMATELY MAKING HIS POSITION UNTENABLE. HIS ANTI-FRANCO ESCAPADES CAUGHT THE ATTENTION OF THE "NEW YORK TIMES" CORRESPONDENCE RICHARD EDER WHO DESCRIBED HIM AS "ONE OF THE MORE PROMINENT OF A YOUNGER GENERATION OF SPANISH PROFESSIONALS CRITICAL OF THE FRANCO REGIME." AT HIS TRIAL FOR "ILLEGAL PROPAGANDA," HE WAS DEFENDED BY THE THEN SEVILLE UNIVERSITY RECTOR MANUEL CLAVERO, CURRENT UCD LEADER IN ANDALUSIA AND MINISTER OF REGIONS IN THE SUAREZ GOVERNMENT.

5. AFTER FRANCO'S DEATH, ROJAS MARCOS ORGANIZED THE PARTIDO SOCIALISTA DE ANDALUSIA AND WAS ONE OF THE FIRST POLITICAL FIGURES OF THE REGION TO PROPOUND THE IDEA OF REGIONAL AUTONOMY. FOR THE JUNE 1977 ELECTIONS HE FORMED A COALITION WITH THE TIerno GALVAN PARTIDO SOCIALISTA POPULAR WHICH WE EXPECTED TO GET SEVERAL SEATS IN THE NEW CORTES. HOWEVER, THE PSA-PSP COALITION FAILED TO ATTRACT AND ONLY ONE PARLIAMENTARIAN WAS ELECTED, THE PSP CANDIDATE FROM CADIZ PROVINCE. UNDAUNTED, ROJAS MARCOS CON-

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TINUES HIS POLITICAL ACTIVITY AND APPARENTLY HAS WORKED OUT A DEAL WITH THE PCE TO FORM A COALITION FOR THE MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS EXPECTED TO TAKE PLACE SOMETIME IN THE COMING MONTHS. HE APPEARS TO HAVE ESCHEWED ANY DEALINGS WITH THE PSOE BUT AT THE SAME TIME PSOE LEADERS IN SEVILLE ARE NOT IMPRESSED BY HIM. HIS "SOCIALISM" IS YET UNDEFINED. ROJAS MARCOS TALKS OF A BETTER DEAL FOR ANDALUSIA, SOCIAL JUSTICE, CIVIL RIGHTS, REGIONAL AUTONOMY SO THAT HIS IDEOLOGICAL BASE APPEARS AS YET SOMEWHAT ILLUSIVE.

BYM THE PSA MAY SURPRISE US IN THE MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS, BUT I DO NOT BELIEVE IT WILL. LIKE OTHER SUCH MOVEMENTS, E.G., PRIMITIVO DE LA QUINTANA'S MOVIMIENTO SOCIALISTA DE ANDALUCIA IN THE MALAGA PROVINCE, THE PSA HAS FAILED TO CATCH ON, EITHER IN ITS OWN HOME GROUND OR IN OTHER PROVINCES. ROJAS MARCOS HIMSELF IS AN ATTRACTIVE PERSON, ARTICULATE, PERSISTENT, AND INDEED RATHER COURAGEOUS AND PROBABLY SHOULD NOT BE UNDERESTIMATED IN TERMS OF HIS POLITICAL FUTURE. HE IS A PERSON TO WATCH AND COULD WELL EMERGE AS AN IMPORTANT POLITICAL FORCE IN THE FUTURE. AT PRESENT, HOWEVER, HIS IMPACT APPEARS TO BE MINIMAL, AN

INTERESTING COMMENTARY ON THE THESIS THAT THOSE
SUPPOSED TO BE SO FIERCELY ANTI-FRANCO AND WHO BRAVED THE
WRATH OF THE REGIME WOULD EMERGE AS THE POPULARLY ACCEPTED
LEADERS OF THE POST-FRANCO ERA WHETHER OR NOT THEY HAD A
SOLID ORGANIZATIONAL BASE.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 MADRID 04977

FOR EUR/WE - HUGHES

7. WHILE I HAVE NOT READ IT, I UNDERSTAND A WHOLE CHAPTER
IS DEVOTED TO ROJAS MARCOS IN THE YGLESIAS BOOK ON THE
FRANCO YEARS. EATON

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